

THE LACLEDE BLADE

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The State Highway

There is no law under which the state may locate and build a highway or state road across the state or in any direction, but there is no statute or hindrance in the way of the state board of agriculture in its purpose to officially select certain public roads in various counties and include them in a stretch of connected highways to be designated as a state highway from St. Louis to Kansas City. That done, the counties may improve the roads thus designated and in due time a perfect state road will be recognized and the legislature may make provision for its perfection and for its permanency. Once established, such a highway will superinduce the improvement of all local roads leading leading to it, and thus encourage good road building.

Citizens who do not live along or in the vicinity of the routes inspected for the highway cannot realize what an intense interest has been manifested in the proposition to officially designate its route. For weeks before the inspecting tour began there was lively interest, and when the inspecting parties began their tour every town, village and hamlet to be visited by them was ready to receive and honor them. There was really an outburst of enthusiasm. The inspection tours gave an impetus to the good roads movement that can not be diminished by crafty politicians.

Governor Hadley, aided by the state highway engineer, Curtis Hill, is devoting much of his time to this great enterprise. He so directed matters as to assure any and all of the people along the several proposed routes a square deal. The jury to whom the matter of determining a route was submitted are disinterested and honorable citizens.

This good roads movement has attained such momentum that great good is sure to result. There is nothing to prevent any community from building, if the people want to do it. The law provides for the organization of eight-mile districts, which can issue bonds, and with the money so obtained proceed with the work. This is being done in many of the counties of the state; and the people are coming to realize that the whole matter is in their hands, and that they are to blame and no one else if they have bad roads. They are also coming to realize that as an economic question they cannot afford to have bad roads when they have it in their power to have good ones.

Good Work of Prof. Evans

Prof. Wm. P. Evans, state superintendent of schools, is energetically discharging his duties the same as if he were drawing his salary regularly and no contest pending. He is putting new life into the administration of school affairs in the state. He has a competent corps of energetic assistants, and every thing is moving toward a betterment of the schools. Largely through the influence of the department of education a new certification measure was passed by the last legislature raising the standard or qualifications for teachers. It has the approval of the ablest teachers of the state.

Hereafter the state funds will be apportioned on the basis of the total number of days attendance

by pupils and the number of teachers employed. This will do away with the practice which has allowed certain places to enumerate more than one-half of their population as children of school age. During the past five years one district has drawn from the public funds over two hundred thousand dollars to which it was not entitled and at the expense of the other school districts of the state.

There is now also on the statutes a transportation measure which renders practicable the consolidation of small districts. This will eventually allow the boy and girl of the country district to come into their own in the way of school advantages.

The superintendent is sending out a list of the large cities and towns of the state showing the enumeration for 1910, and 1911, and the population according to the census of 1910. In a letter accompanying the list he says: "It will be observed that on the average the enumeration in 1910 was 30.5 per cent. of the population, and in 1911 29.1 per cent. The decrease is due to the fact that attention had been called to gross irregularities in enumeration. You will readily see that some places still have too large an enumeration. These towns have been asked to explain or to correct and they will no doubt do so. This is called to the attention of the public because, after this year, the state superintendent will have no authority over enumerations as the state fund will be apportioned on another basis. The county and township funds will continue to be apportioned on the basis of enumeration, however, and it will be well for the local officials and high-minded citizens generally to see that correct enumerations are made, thereby insuring equitable distribution of local funds to the districts of the county."

Chips and Shavings

When a man declares that the office should seek the man he usually feels confident that the office is headed in the right direction.

Senator La Follette may think that President Taft has dropped the Roosevelt policies, but the big trusts are not generally of that opinion.

The Lorimer case has developed one of the most extensive assortments of "important if true" items that ever emanated from one source.

Champ Clark's prediction that "Pennsylvania will go democratic next year" is another evidence that he thinks he is a humorist.

Dr. Wiley, the pure food expert, has already analyzed those charges against him and found them in violation of the pure food law.

A girl with four feet of veil streaming out behind her hat seems to be waving at every man within a mile.

What has become of the old-fashioned man who went to a picnic and sat down on a custard pie?

Some statesmen think that Arizona has ruined its constitution by an overdose "of recall."

Congress seems to be rapidly resolving itself into a national bureau of investigations.

For the Lorimerites to call themselves Lincoln republicans is the quintessence of gall.

The silver lining to a great many clouds is nothing but moonshine.

When a hot wave takes its departure it leaves few mourners.

Marriage also proves that two can live as expensively as one.

Eminence is not to be obtained without time and energy.

Missouri College Grows

Statistics recently compiled at the Missouri Agricultural college show that in the past five years the number of students attending its courses has increased 227 per cent. In the same period of time, the university, as a whole, has increased in attendance by 40 per cent.

He who seeks an explanation of this remarkable growth in the popularity of the agricultural college will find it partly in the general awakening to the importance of agriculture as a fundamental vocation and partly in the effective work the college has done in the establishing of new agricultural standards.

Missouri Chief Josephine, and her six noted stable mates, with records of from 600 to 700 pounds of marketable butter annually, all of them bred at the college farm, have attracted widespread attention. On some of its outlying farms, the experiment station has succeeded in increasing the yield of clover from one-half to two tons per acre by proper soil management, and in Southwest Missouri it has been shown that corn may be increased twenty bushels per acre and wheat twelve. The horticultural department has discovered methods of pruning peach trees so as to produce two additional crops in eight years. The veterinary department has sent out information and given direct help to thousands of hog raisers throughout the state, as a result of which it has been estimated that the farmers of Missouri have saved \$500,000 in a single year. It will be remembered, too, that at the 1910 international live stock show, the Missouri college had the highest scoring student stock-judging team that has ever judged at Chicago in the eleven years that these contests have been held.

In ways similar to these, the Missouri college has come to be regarded with favor by the farming and other business interests of the state, and young men who, eight or ten years ago, would have taken up the study of law, medicine or engineering are now enrolling for work in agriculture.

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Burlington Route

The Electric-Lighted "On Time" Road

Probably Wiser Now

An Irishman named Pat Sullivan, hearing stories to the effect that people in America were mind readers, that money could be found in the streets, etc., decided to come to this country.

Shortly after his arrival in New York he picked up a purse containing \$450. Said Pat, pocketing the purse, "Oi'm begining to believe phwat Oi heard."

Upon boarding a street car, he heard the conductor calling off the names, and noticed at each call someone arose and left the car.

"Lewis!" called the conductor, and a man got off.

"Clinton!" another man got off.

"Elizabeth!" a lady got off.

Sullivan thought this was wonderful.

"Thompson!" called the conductor, and another man got off.

Pat was about to ask the conductor how he managed to do this when the conductor called

"Sullivan!"

Pat bounced out of his seat, saying to the conductor, "Oi'm Sullivan," and got off the car.

"Well, I wonder what next," said Pat to himself, standing on the corner. He had not long to wait, however, for in a few minutes a lady approached him and asked, "Is this Sullivan?"

"Yis, madam," said Pat, "What can I do for yez?"

"Well, I want 450 Sullivan," said the lady, who was looking for a certain address.

Whereupon, Pat, overwhelmed with astonishment, reached into his pocket and handed the lady the \$450 he had found, remarking, "Begorry, this is a great country."

Almost any man can start a newspaper or family, but it takes a hustler to keep either of them going.

The tobacco trust doesn't ask a rehearing. It has heard enough.